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Concert: Ithaca College Percussion Ensemble and Steel Band

Gordon Stout

Ithaca College Percussion Ensemble

Ithaca College Steel Band

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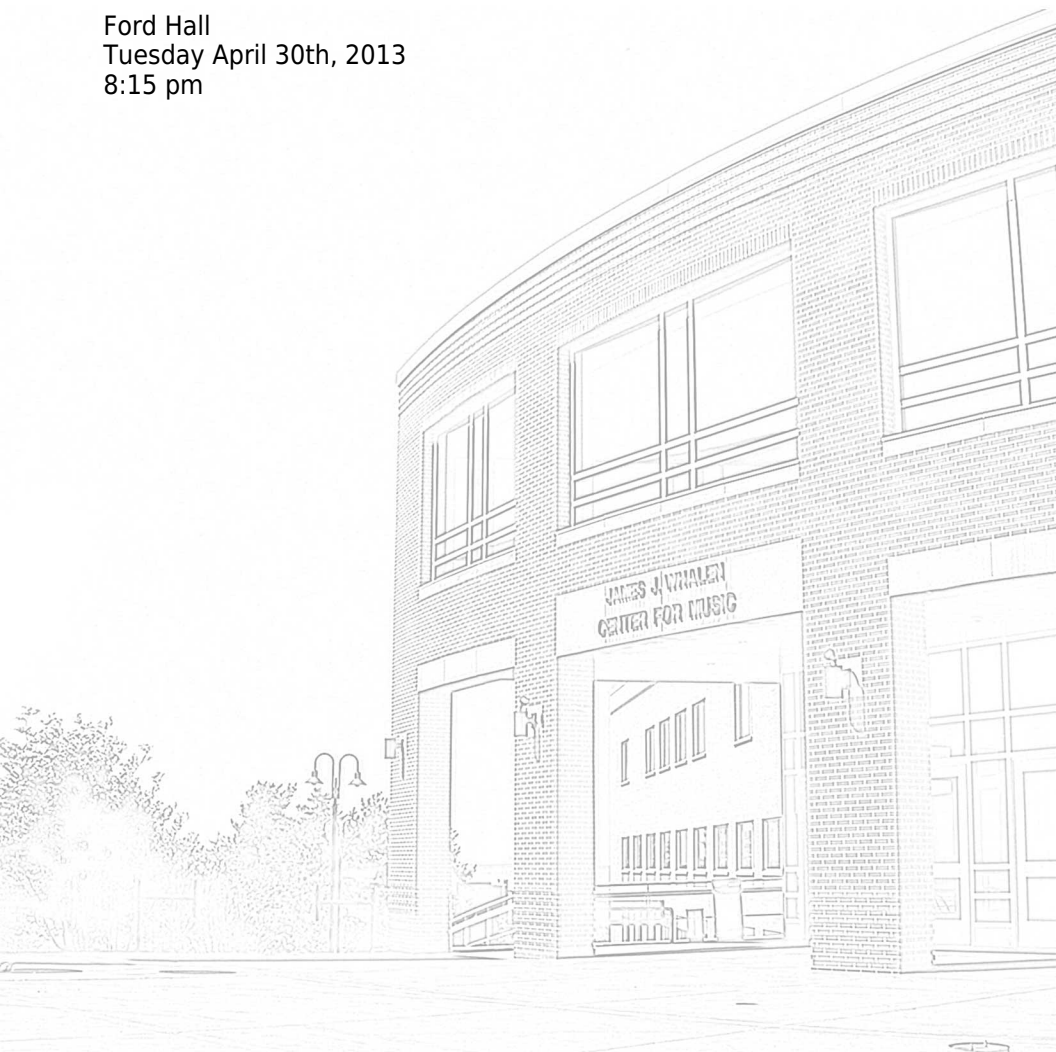
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Ithaca College Percussion Ensemble and Steel Band

Gordon Stout, director

Guest Artists: Valerie Dee Naranjo & Barry Olsen

Ford Hall
Tuesday April 30th, 2013
8:15 pm



ITHACA COLLEGE

School of Music

Ithaca College Percussion Ensemble

KECAK (1979)

Akira Nishimura

Tower Music (1974)

Karel Husa

1. Christ is born
2. The three shipherds
3. The brook is flowing...
4. March
5. Green meadows
6. Good night
7. Melancholic Song
8. Dance, dance...

*Premiere Performance
Keegan Sheehy, chimes*

Guun, for percussion quartet and gyil

trad. Lobi/Brifor-Kakraba Lobi
(1940-2008)
arr. Naranjo

Valerie Dee Naranjo, gyil

Intermission

**Valerie D. Naranjo, gyil, marimba
Barry Olsen, piano, gangaa, kuar**

Pire/Darkpo

trad. Lobi/Brifo
arr. Kakraba Lobi

Nite Song
Goodbye

trad. Dagara
trad. Lobi/Brifo

Gmeng Se Naah Eee (What Shall We Do?)
Fumaa Bwiche Naamwin Je (We Will All go to God
one Day)

Ba-ere Yotere
(b.1977)

No Maah Bie (Disheveled Old Lady)
Nifaa Mi Kpi (The Enemy is Glad)
Kaang Kuon Kpar (The Oil has Spilled)
Ganda Yina (The Strong Man is Out)
Kpanlogo (Dance from the South)

Chitayeer Yardide
trad. Dagara, arr. K. Lobi
trad. Dagara
trad. Lobi Brifo, arr. K. Lobi
trad. Ghana

Ithaca College Steel Band

Pan in A minor
Somebody to Love

Aldwyn "Lord Kitcher" Roberts
Queen

arr. A. Sickmeier
Kansas

Dust In The Wind

arr. Sickmeier

Chippin' On De Drag (2007)

Gary Gipson

Mr. Roboto

Styx

arr. Sickmeier

Biographies

Valerie Dee Naranjo created the transcription series "West African Music for the Marimba Soloist", and the gyil concerto series "Joro, for Marimba, Gyil and Full Orchestra" in collaboration with the late master of the West African gyil, Kakraba Lobi. Early in her 24 years of study in Ghana, Valerie affected a chiefly decree in Ghana's Upper-west Region that allowed women to play the gyil in public. She and Barry became, in 1996, the only to date non-West Africans to place "first" in the "Kobine Festival of Traditional Arts" in Lawra, Ghana. "Knock on Wood", documenting this activity, is currently part of several documentary film festivals internationally.

Valerie has played for 18 years in NBC's Saturday Night Live Band, for 15 years in Broadway's "The Lion King", and has played on six continents, solo, with the Philip Glass Ensemble, The Paul Winter Consort, Aíto Moreira, Glenn Velez, Zakir Hussein, and others. She performed at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, and for 9 Percussive Arts Society International Conventions. The 2005 and 2008 Reader's polls for "Drum!" magazine named Valerie "World Percussionist of the Year", and the 2011 "Mallet Player of the Year".

Trombonist, pianist, percussionist, composer **Barry Olsen** was born in New York City, and is an alum of the Manhattan School of Music. He began his musical career with Latin bands at the age of 17. His performance/recording credits include; Ray Barretto, Eddie Palmieri, Hector Lavoe, La India, Tito Puente, Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony, Paul Simon, David Byrne, The Paul Winter Consort, Jose Neto, Charlie Persip, South Africans Pops Mohammed and Zim Ngqwana, and others. Barry played piano with the Latin-Jazz group Syotos, appearing on their five recordings. He plays marimba and percussion for Broadway's "The Lion King", and trombone and keyboards with the Broadway show "Fela!" which features the music of the Nigerian Afro-Beat pioneer Fela Kuti. He toured with "Fela!" in Amsterdam, London and the U.S. He toured five East African countries in 2007 in the US State Department tour "Rhythm Road". Barry recorded the CD "Always Climbing" with his piano trio and a CD in the

group that he co-leads, Mandara.

Since 1988 Barry and Valerie have been performing Lobi and Dagaraa music, and have recorded two duo CDs of this music, as well as four CDs with Kakraba Lobi and the CD "Zie Mwea" with Bernard Woma.

The Gyl is a marimba from Ghana, Burkina Faso, and the Ivory Coast. Calabash gourds, enhanced with spider's egg cases, give this instrument its unique "buzz", believed in its culture to carry a vibration which creates and maintains health and balance individually and within the community. Although most men can play at least a song or two, the jealously guarded art of gyl mastery usually runs in family lines. The instrument's most important function is its transporting the soul of the deceased from this world to the next. Dagara musicians play the gyl in pairs, and Lobis play a single gyl, supported by dance, song, a single piece of metal struck with a metal beater, and either of the drums called gangaa or kuar.

Personnel

Will Alderman
Ian Cummings
Chris Demetriou
Andrew Dobos
Taylor Eddinger
Sean Harvey
Heather Hill
Jon Keefner
Jessica Linden
Yun-ju Pan
Keegan Sheehy
Andrew Sickmeier
Tom Smith
Corrine Steffens
Aaron Walters